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EO 11652: N/A DECON 6/14/75
TAGS: PINS, LE, IS
SUBJECT: PFLP - GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC) CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHAMIR ATTACK

SUMMARY: PFLP - GENERAL COMMAND HAS ASSUMED CREDIT FOR SHAMIR INCIDENT, ASCRIBING TO ATTACK SIGNIFICANT ISRAELI LOSSES. IN ADDITION, GENERAL COMMAND LISTED POLITICAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR SHAMIR ATTACK INDICATING ITS READINESS TO DO BATTLE WITH PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH CURRENT PEACE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. WITHIN A WEEK OF ITS ACCEPTANCE AT CAIRO INTO PLO FOLD, THEREFORE, PFLP-GC HAS EMPHASIZED ITS DETERMINATION TO CONTIUE RAIDS AGAINST ISRAELI INSTALLATIONS AND THROWN DOWN A GAUNTLET BEFORE FEDAYEEN GROUPS AND OTHER ARABS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. THROUGH ITS USUAL SPOKESMAN, "ABU ABBAS", AND A SERIES OF

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STATEMENTS RELEASED TO LOCAL MEDIA, PFLP-GC HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTACK AT SHAMIR ON JUNE 13. PFLP-GC ALSO USES NAME "UMM AL-AQARRIB" TO IDENTIFY SITE OF ATTACK, SUGGESTING THAT THIS IS FORMER NAME OF VILLAGE THERE. PFLP-GC SPOKESMAN ALSO STATED ATTACK CARRIED OUT FROM WITHIN ISRAEL AND NOT RPT NOT AS RESULT OF INFILTRATION ACROSS LEBANSE BORDER.

2. IN THE FOURTH OF ITS STATEMENTS ON JUNE 13, PFLP-GC CLAIMED TO HAVE ESTABLISHED WIRELESS CONTACT WITH THE "ABU ALI IYAD" UNIT MOUNTING THE ATTACK AND RECEIVED REPORTS THAT A GREAT NUMBER OF HOSTAGES HAD BEEN SEIZED AND THAT THE UNIT WAS UNDER ISRAELI COUNTERATTACK. LATER COMMENTARIES REPORTED THAT THE GUERRILLAS HELD OUT IN THE VILLAGE RESTAURANT MORE THAN SIX HOURS BEFORE BLOWING UP THEMSELVES AND 31 HOSTAGES. IN ADDITION, MORE THAN 15 ATTACKING ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE LISTED AS DEAD OR WOUNDED, FOUR WOMEN WERE KILLED IN THE STREET AND A MILITARY VEHICLE AND POLICE CAR WERE DESTROYED, ACCORDING TO THE GENERAL COMMAND TALLY.

3. THE FINAL AVAILABLE STATEMENT ASSERTS THAT THE OPERATIONS WAS LAUNCHED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) TO DEMONSTRATE THE VIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN AND ARAB "MASSES" TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND, IF POSSIBLE, DISRUPT PRESIDENT'S VISIT.

(B) TO REPLY AS REVOLUTIONARIES TO THE "LEADERSHIP WHICH HAVE BEGUN TO COMPROMISE ON THE CASE OF OUR NATION;"

(C) TO ASSERT THAT ARMED STRUGGLE, WHICH WILL NOT BE DETERRED BY "TEN POINTS", IS THE ONLY ROAD TO PALESTINIAN LIBERATION;

(D) TO EXPRESS REJECTION OF RES. 242 AND SIMILAR RESOLUTIONS "WHETHER AMENDED OR NOT;"

(E) TO EXPRESS REJECTION OF NEGOTIATION, EXCEPT "BY BULLETS" UNTIL PALESTINE IS LIBERATED FROM THE JORDAN "RIVER TO THE SEA". IN THIS CONNECTION, THE GENERAL COMMAND WARNED OTHER, MORE "MODERATE" PALESTINIAN GROUPS NOT RPT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS, ADDING "THE ONES WHO REACH THE HEART OF ISRAEL WILL NOT FAIL TO REACH ALL TRAITORS, REVISIONISTS AND AGENTS."

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4. MEANWHILE IN DAMASCUS, GENERAL COMMAND JOINED WITH PFLP, ALF, AND POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT TO SIGN STATEMENT CONDEMNING PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO AREA AS ATTEMPT TO WEAVE A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE ARAB NATION.

5. COMMENT: PFLP-GC HAS BEHAVED ACCORDING TO ITS ESTABLISHED PATTERNS IN ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SHAMIR INCIDENT. MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF GENERAL COMMAND STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, IS STANCE ASSUMED WITHIN CONTEXT OF INTER-PALESTINIAN POLITICS. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT DURING RECENT PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO, GROUP WAS ADMITTED TO PLO AND WAS GIVEN SEAT ON 14-PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THIS ACCEPTANCE, HOWEVER, HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT TEMPERED PFLP-GC STRATEGY AND POINTS IN STATEMENT OUTLINED PARA 3 ABOVE, CHARACTERIZED BY REJECTION OF 10 POINTS APPROVED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN CAIRO. PFLP-GC MAY BE EXPECTED CONTINUE ATTEMPT SIMILAR ATTACKS WITHIN ISRAELI-HELD TERRITORY AND IT IS SUGGESTED IN GROUP'S STATEMENTS THAT GENERAL COMMAND ALSO PREPARED ENGAGE IN INTERNECINE BATTLE WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT BEHAVE TO PFLP-GC'S LIKING RE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS.
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